

writings and opinions.¹ On December 28, 1384, Wycliffe was struck with paralysis in Lutterworth church. They carried him out, and the pictured Judgment he never again beheld. On the last day of the year he died. They buried him in the churchyard, where for nearly half a century he was suffered to lie. Then his body, like Cromwell's, was dug up by his enemies, and his bones thrown into the stream that flows below the village.² It seems a fit ending for the indefatigable man, who never wished for peace with the wicked, nor sighed for * deep and liquid rest, forgetful of all ill.' The historian has no temptation to linger over his death, for it was but an incident in the contest that he had set on foot. He had so well laid down the lines on which his disciples were to advance, that his removal affected them little. A criticism of his work will be best supplied by recounting the success and the failure of Lollardy, and by considering how far these can be attributed to the merits and the faults of his system.

After his death his friend and companion, Purvey, went off to the West of England.³ The occupants of the chapel outside Leicester walls could no longer look for assistance and direction to Lutterworth. But they had already formed among themselves a staunch and vigorous community. They were essentially popular preachers, and in their hands the subtlety and scholasticism of Wycliffe's doctrines were abandoned in favour of that direct appeal to common sense which had been their master's best weapon. While he had rather deprecated than attacked the worship of images, while he had defined its use and its abuse, his followers were thorough iconoclasts. They did not attempt to teach distinctions seldom understood by ordinary people. They took the readiest and most effective means of stopping idolatry by denouncing the cult of images altogether. A figure of St. Catharine still stood in the deserted sanctuary where the reformers had taken up their abode. One evening in the year 1382, finding themselves short of fuel, they pulled it

* ¹ Knighton, ii. 178-9.
Wals., ii. 119; Baynaldi *Annales*, sub 1427; Lyndwood,
234,
* Knighton, ii. 179; Wilkins, iii. 202, Perney = Purvey ?